

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, and 21-23 are presented for prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16 are amended. Claims 6, 13, and 20 are canceled.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,330,374 to Yamaguchi et al.

Claims 2, 9, and 26 were objected to for the informality of missing a period at the end of the respective claim. Applicants assume that Examiner meant claims 2, 9, and 16 since the current application does not have a claim 26, and claim 16 was missing the required period. Claims 2, 9, and 16 have been amended accordingly.

Claims 6, 13 and 20 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner, and have incorporated all the limitations of claim 6, 13, and 20 into their respective base claims 1, 8, and 15. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are believed to now be in condition for allowance.

Therefore, claims 2-5, 7, and 21 are believed to be allowable based at least on the allowability of their base claim 1.

Similarly, claims 9-12, 14, and 22 are believed to be in condition for allowance based on the allowability of their base claim 8.

Also, claims 16-19, and 23 are believed to likewise be in condition for allowance based at least on the allowability of their base claim 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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